

**CLAIMS**

Please **CANCEL** claims 9, 17, and 18, **AMEND** claims 8 and 10, and **ADD** claims 20-23. A listing of the claims follows.

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Claim 1: (Previously Amended) A gas opening/closing pin which opens and closes a gas inlet and outlet formed in a pipe holder which seals one end portion of a cylinder and moves the position of a piston in the cylinder, wherein at least one indented portion which is adapted to open the gas inlet and outlet is formed on a side of the outer peripheral surface of the central portion of the gas opening/closing pin and an integrally formed stepped diameter reducing portion is formed at an upper end of the opening/closing pin.

Claim 2: (Original) A gas opening/closing pin according to claim 1, wherein the lower end portion of the diameter reducing portion of the gas opening/closing pin is caught by an annular jaw corresponding to the diameter reducing portion of the gas opening/closing pin and installed in the pipe holder.

Claim 3: (Previously Amended) A gas opening/closing pin according to claim 2, wherein the diameter reducing portion has at least one step.

Claim 4: (Original) A gas opening/closing pin according to claim 2, wherein the diameter reducing portion is tapered.

Claim 5: (Original) A gas/opening closing pin according to one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the gas opening/closing pin is made of a metal.

Claim 6: (Original) A gas opening/closing pin according to one of claims 1-4, wherein the outer periphery of the upper end portion of the gas opening/closing pin is chamfered.

Claim 7: (Original) A gas/opening closing pin according to one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the gas opening/closing pin is made of a non-metal.

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Claim 8: (Currently Amended) A gas opening/closing pin according to claim 1, where the at least one indented portion formed on the outer peripheral surface of the central portion of the gas opening/closing pin is streamlined shaped.

Claim 9: (cancelled)

Claim 10: (Currently Amended) A gas opening/closing pin which opens and closes a gas inlet and outlet formed in a pipe holder which seals one end portion of a cylinder and moves the position of a piston in the cylinder, wherein at least one streamlined recessed portion which opens the gas inlet and outlet is formed on a side of the outer peripheral surface of the central portion of the gas opening/closing pin and ~~one of~~ an integrally formed washer-shaped boss body portion is formed at a lower end of the opening/closing pin.

Claim 11: (Previously Amended) A gas/opening closing pin according to claim 1, wherein the recessed portion comprises a plurality of streamlined-shaped recesses.

Claim 12: (Previously Amended) A gas opening/closing pin according to claim 10, further comprising an integrally formed diameter reducing portion is formed at an upper end of the opening/closing pin wherein the lower end portion of the diameter reducing portion of the gas opening/closing pin is caught by an annular jaw corresponding to the diameter reducing portion of the gas opening/closing pin and installed in the pipe holder.

Claim 13: (Previously Amended) A gas opening/closing pin according to claim 12, wherein at least a part of the diameter reducing portion is tapered.

Claim 14: (Previously Added) A gas opening/closing pin according to claim 10, wherein the diameter reducing portion has a tapered end portion.

Claim15: (Previously Added) A gas opening/closing pin according to claim 1, wherein the diameter reducing portion has a tapered end portion.

Claim16: (Previously Added) A gas opening/closing pin according to claim 1, further comprising an integrally formed washer-shaped boss body portion formed at a lower end of the opening/closing pin .

Claim17: (Cancelled)

Claim 18: (Cancelled)

Claim 19: (Previously Added) A gas opening/closing pin according to claim 1, wherein the diameter reducing portion has at least one step.

Claim 20: (Newly Added) The gas opening/closing pin according to claim 1, wherein the at least one indented portion has an entirely closed circumference defined by a non-indented portion of the outer peripheral surface.

Claim 21: (Newly Added) The gas opening/closing pin according to claim 20, wherein the at least one indented portion has one of an oval and a circular shape.

Claim 22: (Newly Added) The gas opening/closing pin according to claim 10, wherein the at least one streamlined recessed portion has an entirely closed circumference defined by a non-recessed portion of the outer peripheral surface.

Claim 23: (Newly Added) The gas opening/closing pin according to claim 10, wherein the at least one streamlined recessed portion has one of an oval and a circular shape.